

to the amendments to the specification in the April 22, 2005 Amendment, because the amendments are directed to two adjacent sides of a same microlens.

For at least the above reasons, withdrawal of the objection to the April 22, 2005 Amendment is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, asserting that the subject matter recited in claim 7 is not supported in the specification. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above in connection with the objection to the April 22, 2005 Amendment, the originally filed Fig. 2A clearly illustrates that "adjacent sides within a microlens being perpendicular to each other." Thus, the subject matter recited in claim 7 is supported in the specification at Fig. 2A. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2 and 4-7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,335,828 to Hashimoto et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,297,540 to Assadi et al.; and rejects claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Hashimoto in view of Assadi and further in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0070845 to Karasawa et al. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The Office Action acknowledges that Hashimoto does not disclose or suggest microlenses of a microlens array portion being arrayed in a first direction and a second direction, with adjacent microlenses having common side, the first direction being rotated by 45° with respect to the horizontal direction, the second direction being perpendicular to the first direction, as recited in claim 1; but asserts that Assadi discloses this feature. However, Assadi does not disclose this feature, because Assadi does not disclose or suggest microlenses of a microlens array portion being arrayed in a first direction and a second direction, the second direction being perpendicular to the first direction, as recited in claim 1.

Assadi discloses an arrangement along two directions. See Fig. 1. However, these two directions are not perpendicular to each other. Thus, the elements 12 in Fig. 1 of Assadi are not arranged in two directions that are substantially perpendicular to each other.

The Office Action asserts that if two mutually perpendicular axes are rotated by 45°, these two axes remain mutually perpendicular. While this argument is correct, it is irrelevant to the subject matter recited in claim 1. In particular, claim 1 recites two directions in which the microlenses are arranged. The argument presented in the Office Action, on the other hand, only describes two axes along which element 12 in Fig. 1 of Assadi are not arranged.

For at least the above reasons, Assadi does not supply the subject matter lacking in Hashimoto.

Furthermore, Karasawa does not disclose or suggest microlenses of a microlens array portion that is arrayed in a first direction and a second direction, the second direction being perpendicular to the first direction, as recited in claim 1. Therefore, Karasawa does not supply the subject matter lacking in Hashimoto.

In view of the above, Hashimoto, Assadi and Karasawa, either individually or in combination, do not disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claim 1.

Additionally, claims 2-7 are patentable over the applied references at least in view of the patentability of claim 1, from which they depend, as well as for additional features they recite. For example, the applied references do not disclose or suggest a plurality of microlenses each having a substantially four-sided shape, adjacent sides within a microlens being perpendicular to each other, as recited in claim 7.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff  
Registration No. 27,075

Gang Luo  
Registration No. 50,559

JAO:GXL/sqb

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**OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC**  
**P.O. Box 19928**  
**Alexandria, Virginia 22320**  
**Telephone: (703) 836-6400**

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